

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 STR-04 AGR-05 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07 FRB-03

TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01

/112 W

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P R 051400Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4346

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY JOHANNESBURG

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L MAPUTO 0217

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR EPAR EAID ECON PFOR SOCI SWEL USHMZ RH

SUBJECT: FOOD SHORTAGES IN MOZAMBIQUE AGGRAVATED BY FLOODS,
RHODESIAN SANCTIONS

REF: MAPUTO 216

1. RECENT FLOODS CAUSED BY HEAVY RAINS, AND ESPECIALLY BY
TROPICAL DEPRESSION "DANAE" HAVE DAMAGED MANY HECTARES OF CROPS
IN SOUTHERN AND CENTRAL MOZAMBIQUE. THESE CROPS WOULD HAVE
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REACHED URBAN MARKETS IN MID-YEAR, BUT LOSSES FROM FLOODS

AND RAINS MEAN THAT CURRENT CHRONIC AND SEVERE FOOD SHORTAGES NOW PREDOMINANT THROUGHOUT ALL OF MOZAMBIQUE, WILL BE AGGRAVATED IN SHORT TERM. ALTHOUGH TRADITIONALLY, SEASONAL FOOD SHORTAGES WERE ALLEVIATED BY PURCHASES FROM SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA, ENJOINING OF SANCTIONS AGAINST RHODESIA MEANS THAT AN IMPORTANT SOURCE HAS BEEN CUT OFF. MOZAMBIQUE WAS CURRENTLY PURCHASING 30,000 TONS OF CORN FROM RHODESIA, AND HAD RECENTLY PURCHASED SEVERAL HUNDRED TONS OF MEAT AND CHICKENS.

2. FLOODS STRUCK HEAVILY IN SOUTH CENTRAL MOZAMBIQUE, CENTERING AROUND INHAMBANE AREA, THEN A WEEK LATER AREA NEAR BEIRA WAS HEAVILY AFFECTED. MANY CROPS WHICH HAD BEEN RECENTLY PLANTED WERE UNDER SEVERAL METERS OF WATER. IN ADDITION, MANY ROADS WERE CUT, CAUSING DISTRIBUTION PROBLEMS.

3. GPRM AND UN OFFICIALS WHO FLEW OVER AFFECTED AREAS SAID DAMAGE WAS SERIOUS, ALTHOUGH NOT AS SERIOUS AS THAT CAUSED BY 1974 FLOODS. UN CHIEF BALINSKI PUBLICLY STATED THAT UN WAS READY TO ASSIST MOZAMBIQUE WITH RELIEF EFFORTS IF GRPM DESIRED, BUT AS OF MARCH 4, NO REQUEST HAS BEEN FORTHCOMING FROM GOVERNMENT.

4. ALTHOUGH ALL OF POPULATION HAS BEEN AFFECTED BY FOOD SHORTAGES, THE AFRICAN PORTION OF THE POPULATION WHICH HAS TRADITIONALLY LIVED ON A SUBSISTENCE DIET HAS NOT BEEN AS SEVERELY AFFECTED. THIS SITUATION IS PROBABLY NO LONGER TRUE.

5. EMBASSY THEREFORE EXPECTS THAT COMBINATION OF DISASTEROUS DECLINE IN PRODUCTIVITY OF MOZAMBIKAN AGRICULTURE, DAMAGE CAUSED BY FLOODS, AND CUTOFF OF RHODESIAN SUPPLIES WILL MEAN THAT IN NEAR FUTURE MOZAMBIQUE WILL BE LOOKING TO FOREIGN SOURCES FOR IMPORTS OF MANY FOOD ITEMS, PRIMARILY RICE, WHEAT, CORN, AND MEAT.

6. SINCE INDEPENDENCE, MOZAMBIQUE HAS BEEN PAYING FOR ITS PURCHASES THROUGH REVENUE GENERATE FROM SEVERAL SOURCES. AMONG THE MOST IMPORTANT WAS INCOME, SALE OF ELECTRICITY, AND INCOME RECEIVED FROM MOZAMBIKAN MIGRANT LABOR. EMBASSY ESTIMATES THAT LOSS OF INCOME CAUSED BY ENJOINING OF SANCTIONS AGAINST RHODESIA WILL AMOUNT TO ABOUT US\$40 MILLION ANNUALLY, AN AMOUNT WHICH WILL SEVERELY AFFECT MOZAMBIQUE'S BALANCE OF PAYMENTS, AND ITS CONFIDENTIAL

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ABILITY TO PAY FOR FOOD PURCHASES.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: AS PART OF ANY POTENTIAL USG POLICY OF SUPPORT FOR MOZAMBIQUE IMPOSING SANCTIONS, REQUEST DEPT STUDY POSSIBILITY OF OFFERING FOODSTUFFS TO MOZAMBIQUE ON EITHER BILATERAL OF MULTILATERAL BASIS. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT FOREIGN MINISTER CHISSANO OR PRESIDENT SAMORA MACHEL WILL ASK AMBASSADOR DE PREE ABOUT US AID INTENTIONS VERY SHORTLY AFTER HIS ARRIVAL.

8. FOLLOWING MESSAGE SHOULD BE REPEATED TO AMBASSADOR DE PREE
WHO IS EN ROUTE TO POST.
CARSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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